

BMNHA Feasibility Study

Appendix 5: House Resolution 5505

Appendix 6: Senate Joint Resolution (SJ0067)

Draft

Appendix 5: House Resolution 5505



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110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5505

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of designating the study area as the Black Metropolis District National Heritage Area in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2008

Mr. RUSH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of designating the study area as the Black Metropolis District National Heritage Area in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Black Metropolis Dis-
5 trict National Heritage Area Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:



1 (1) The Black Metropolis district on Chicago,
 2 Illinois' South Side has a cohesive and distinctive
 3 history as well as an important streetscape that dis-
 4 tinguishes the area as worthy of designation as a
 5 National Heritage Area.

6 (2) The historic features of Chicago's Black
 7 Metropolis District predate the Great Migration of
 8 1916–1919 and illustrate its influence on African-
 9 American life in Chicago and the Nation as a result
 10 of this demographic phenomenon in which 500,000
 11 African-Americans migrated to the North in search
 12 of work and other opportunities, with 50,000 of that
 13 aggregate relocating in Chicago.

14 (3) The Black Metropolis, as a setting, wit-
 15 nessed some of the finest accomplishments in Afri-
 16 can-American contributions to Chicago, the State of
 17 Illinois, and the Nation, while its legally and socially
 18 proscribed citizens challenged their environment and
 19 their Nation to fulfill its promise as a place of op-
 20 portunity for all.

21 (4) These contributions and accomplishments
 22 fall into the following main categories:

23 (A) BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURIAL
 24 PURSUITS.—With State Street developing as
 25 the Black Metropolis District's "Wall Street",

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1 the area produced two of the largest Black
2 banking operations in the Nation in the Binga
3 State and Douglass National Banks and scores
4 of smaller businesses ranging from print shops
5 to restaurants to clothing stores to hair salons
6 and barbershops.

7 (B) CULTURE AND AESTHETICS.—The
8 area emerged as a musical mecca ranging from
9 jazz to gospel to delta and urban blues to
10 rhythm and blues and was home for institutions
11 such as the George Cleveland Hall Branch Li-
12 brary, which nurtured literary giants such as
13 Langston Hughes, the South Side Community
14 Arts Center, and the DuSable Museum of Afri-
15 can American History and Culture.

16 (C) EDUCATION.—The area includes the
17 first public secondary school in the State of Illi-
18 nois built specifically to accommodate the edu-
19 cational needs of African-American students,
20 which opened in 1934 at 4934 South Wabash
21 Avenue and was named in honor of Chicago's
22 first non-native inhabitant and trader, Jean
23 Baptiste Pointe du Sable, a Black man from
24 Haiti, and whose illustrious graduates include

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1 Nat “King” Cole and Chicago Mayor Harold
2 Washington.

3 (D) GOVERNANCE AND POLITICS.—From
4 its political bases in the area’s Second Ward
5 and the First Congressional District, Chicago’s
6 Black Metropolis proved itself a political center
7 for all African-Americans, producing the first
8 African-American to sit in Congress in the 20th
9 Century, the Honorable Oscar DePriest, as well
10 as the first African-American Democratic con-
11 gressman, the Honorable Arthur W. Mitchell,
12 succeeded by Honorable William L. Dawson,
13 the Honorable Ralph H. Metcalfe, the Honor-
14 able Bennett M. Stewart, and the Honorable
15 Harold Washington, later the city’s first elected
16 African-American mayor, and the Honorable
17 Charles A. Hayes.

18 (E) HEALTH CARE.—The area includes
19 Provident Hospital, founded in 1891 by the
20 brilliant African-American surgeon Dr. Daniel
21 Hale Williams and site of the first successful
22 suturing of the human heart by Dr. Williams in
23 1893.

24 (F) LABOR.—The area was home to mil-
25 lions of unskilled and semi-skilled African-

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1 American workers, including the packinghouse
 2 workers who arrived during the Great Migra-
 3 tion and constituted 25 percent of the stock-
 4 yards work force during World War I, and the
 5 Pullman porters who represented a full 20 per-
 6 cent of the Nation's African-American work-
 7 force during the early 1900s.

8 (G) MILITARY LIFE AND PATRIOTISM.—Af-
 9 rican-American men enlisted in the Union Army
 10 on the grounds of Camp Douglass within the
 11 Black Metropolis District as part of the 29th
 12 Infantry Regiment of the United States Colored
 13 Troops, and a generation later trained at the
 14 Eighth Regiment Armory nearby before em-
 15 barking for France as part of what President
 16 Wilson referred to as the great crusade to
 17 “make the world safe for democracy” during
 18 the World War I.

19 (H) RECREATION AND COMPETITIVE
 20 SPORTS.—Early on, the Nation's most popular
 21 sports: baseball, boxing, football, track and bas-
 22 ketball, enjoyed support from the Black Me-
 23 tropolis' population and drew participants who
 24 earned widespread recognition such as Rube
 25 Foster, a native Chicagoan, who founded the

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1 Negro Baseball League and its local team, the
2 American Giants.

3 (I) RELIGION AND CHURCH ACTIVISM.—
4 The area includes Quinn Chapel African Meth-
5 odist Episcopal (A.M.E) Church, an antebellum
6 center of abolitionist activity, and a major sta-
7 tion on the Underground Railroad, and with
8 emancipation, there was another religious move-
9 ment to provide and protect the civil rights of
10 all citizens led by Black Metropolis churches
11 such as Quinn Chapel and Bethel A.M.E.

12 (J) SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CIVIL RIGHTS.—
13 It was from within the Black Metropolis Dis-
14 trict in the early 20th century that Ida B.
15 Wells-Barnett waged her crusade for justice for
16 African-Americans and women and worked to
17 establish the first National Association for the
18 Advancement of Colored People branch in that
19 group's national network in 1912.

20 (K) STREETSCAPES.—The area includes
21 many historic locations, including those along
22 State Street and 35th Street, ranging from the
23 Overton Hygienic Manufacturing Building at
24 3617 South State Street and the Chicago Bee
25 Building at 3647 South State Street (both des-

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1 ignated as Chicago City Landmarks) to Liberty
 2 Life Insurance Company at 3501 South Park-
 3 way and a monument and park dedicated to
 4 United States Senator Stephen Douglas (des-
 5 ignated as a State Landmark) at Lake Park
 6 Avenue and 35th Street, green and public
 7 spaces, stretching from Chicago's lakefront to
 8 historic park and boulevard systems to the
 9 West, and is now the proposed site for the 2016
 10 Olympics in the City of Chicago's bid to host
 11 this event.

12 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act:

14 (1) **HERITAGE AREA.**—The term “Heritage
 15 Area” means the Black Metropolis District National
 16 Heritage Area.

17 (2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
 18 the Secretary of the Interior.

19 (3) **STUDY AREA.**—The term “study area”
 20 means the region bounded as follows:

21 (A) 18th Street on the North and 22nd
 22 Street on the South, from Lake Michigan on
 23 the East to Wentworth Avenue to the West.

24 (B) 22nd Street on the North to 35th
 25 Street on the South, from Lake Michigan on

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1 the East to the Dan Ryan Expressway on the
2 West.

3 (C) 35th Street on the North and 47th
4 Street on the South, from Lake Michigan on
5 the East to the B&O Railroad (Stewart Ave-
6 nue) on the West.

7 (D) 47th Street on the North to 55th
8 Street on the South, from Cottage Grove Ave-
9 nue on the East to the Dan Ryan Expressway
10 on the West).

11 (E) 55th Street on the North to 71st
12 Street on the South, from State Street on the
13 West to Cottage Grove Avenue/South Chicago
14 Avenue on the East.

15 **SEC. 4. BLACK METROPOLIS DISTRICT NATIONAL HERIT-**
16 **AGE AREA STUDY.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
18 with the managers of any Federal land within the Herit-
19 age Area, appropriate State and local governmental agen-
20 cies, and any interested organizations, shall conduct a
21 study to determine the feasibility of designating the study
22 area as the Black Metropolis District National Heritage
23 Area.

24 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include anal-
25 ysis, documentation, and determinations on whether—

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1 (1) the study area—

2 (A) has an assemblage of natural, historic,
3 cultural, educational, scenic, or recreational re-
4 sources that together are nationally important
5 to the heritage of the United States;

6 (B) represents distinctive aspects of the
7 heritage of the United States worthy of recogni-
8 tion, conservation, interpretation, and con-
9 tinuing use;

10 (C) is best managed through agreements
11 between public and private entities at the local
12 or regional level;

13 (D) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs,
14 and folklife that are a valuable part of the her-
15 itage of the United States;

16 (E) provides outstanding opportunities to
17 conserve natural, historical, cultural, or scenic
18 features;

19 (F) provides outstanding recreational and
20 educational opportunities; and

21 (G) has resources and traditional uses that
22 have national importance;

23 (2) residents, business interests, nonprofit orga-
24 nizations, the Federal Government (including rel-
25 evant Federal land management agencies), and

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1 State, local, and tribal governments within the study
 2 area—
 3 (A) are involved in the planning; and
 4 (B) have demonstrated significant support
 5 through letters and other means for designation
 6 and management of the Heritage Area; and
 7 (3) the study area has been identified and sup-
 8 ported by the public, private business, and local and
 9 State agencies.

10 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

11 Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which
 12 funds are made available to carry out the this Act, the
 13 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Re-
 14 sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-
 15 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
 16 a report that describes the findings, conclusions, and rec-
 17 ommendations of the Secretary with respect to the study.

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Appendix 6: Senate Joint Resolution (SJ0067)



SJ0067

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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Great Migration, a long-term movement of
3 African Americans from the South to the urban North,
4 transformed Chicago and other northern cities between 1916 and
5 1970; and

6 WHEREAS, Chicago attracted slightly more than 500,000 of
7 the approximately 7 million African Americans who left the
8 South during these decades; and

9 WHEREAS, Before the Great Migration, African Americans
10 constituted just 2 percent of Chicago's population, but by 1970
11 African Americans constituted 33 percent of Chicago's
12 population; and

13 WHEREAS, What had been in the nineteenth century a largely
14 southern and rural African American culture became a culture
15 deeply infused with urban sensibility in the twentieth century;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, What had been a marginalized population in Chicago
18 emerged by the mid-twentieth century as a powerful force in the
19 city's political, economic, and cultural life; and

20 WHEREAS, The Black Metropolis National Heritage Area



1 Project Steering Committee has worked with Congressman Bobby
2 Rush on federal legislation for the Black Metropolis District
3 National Heritage Area (NHA) and the Great Migration Centennial
4 will serve as one of the benchmarks for the National Heritage
5 Area which focuses on preservation, tourism & economic
6 development, conservation, recreation, education &
7 interpretation; and

8 WHEREAS, The Black Metropolis National Heritage Area
9 Project Steering Committee has identified 10 Major Promise
10 Programs for the next century which include:

- 11 1. Great Migration Public Art;
- 12 2. In Motion: African American Migration Experience;
- 13 3. Great Migration Trail: Rails to Trails Conservancy
14 Project;
- 15 4. The Rosenwald Building;
- 16 5. The Chicago Blues Museum;
- 17 6. The Pullman Porter Great Migration Blues Trail;
- 18 7. Leadership Development Institute;
- 19 8. Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships;
- 20 9. Black Metropolis Social Innovation Fund; and
- 21 10. Bronzeville Postmark and Postal Sub-station; and

22 WHEREAS, The Great Migration Centennial celebrates the
23 promise that Chicago once offered a people in search of a
24 better life 100 years ago; and



1 WHEREAS, The theme adopted by the Black Metropolis National
2 Heritage Project Steering Committee, "Creating a New Promise",
3 acknowledges the hope that has been restored through the new
4 political administration and addresses the need for the greater
5 Chicagoland region to deliver on its promise and create a new
6 social compact for the future; and

7 WHEREAS, To succeed in the 21st century global competition
8 for jobs, prosperity, and quality of life for all, we must have
9 inspiring and well-accepted plans to produce action; and

10 WHEREAS, The Great Migration Centennial will challenge
11 children and adults throughout the region to make choices today
12 that will define the way we live for the next century;
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
16 CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Illinois Great Migration
17 Centennial Commission is created; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the members of the Commission shall include
19 the President of the Senate or his designee and the Speaker of
20 the House of Representatives or his designee, each serving as
21 one of the co-chairpersons, the Governor or his designee, one



1 vice-chairperson appointed by the co-chairpersons, all of whom
2 shall serve as the Executive Committee and 25 appointed
3 members, with the Governor, the President of the Senate, the
4 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of
5 the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the House of
6 Representatives appointing 5 members each; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the appointed members shall serve without
8 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and
9 necessary expenses if funds allow; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the appointed members shall be from diverse
11 backgrounds so as to reflect the diverse citizenry of Illinois
12 working together for a common democratic cause, and that their
13 individual qualifications shall include varying educational,
14 professional, and civic experiences that bring different
15 perspectives and cooperative outlooks to the Commission; and be
16 it further

17 RESOLVED, That the purpose of the Commission is to plan for
18 the Great Migration Centennial to be commemorated and
19 celebrated from January to December 2016 and to:

- 20 1. Elevate the centennial of the Great Migration to a
21 high profile bi-partisan event;
- 22 2. Recognize the Great Migration as the largest
23 migration to ever occur in North America;



- 1 3. Stimulate and encourage the creation and growth of
- 2 programs about the Great Migration;
- 3 4. Highlight and publicize the institutions in the
- 4 State that are connected to the Great Migration and their
- 5 impact;
- 6 5. Work with coordinated statewide groups
- 7 commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Great
- 8 Migration; and
- 9 6. Encourage communities and citizens to support and
- 10 get involved in the commemoration; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, The Great Migration Centennial Commission serves
12 to promote a deeper knowledge, understanding and engagement in
13 the life and times of the African American Migration
14 Experience, through conferences, publications, preservation of
15 historic sites, and local, statewide and national observances
16 as well as arts projects, forum, travel & tourism promotions
17 and year long celebration activities; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Commission's preliminary goals are to
19 develop:

- 20 1. a national honorary committee of historians,
- 21 educators, authors, politicians, celebrities and other
- 22 notables;
- 23 2. educational curriculum, events, tours, exhibits and
- 24 programs at the elementary, high school, secondary,



1 graduate and post-graduate level;

2 3. a signature entertainment event for fundraising and
3 broadcast purposes;

4 4. an educational symposium with university partners,
5 the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment
6 for the Humanities, the Illinois Arts Council, as well as
7 private foundations and other philanthropic organizations;

8 5. a year-long cultural promotional event calendar
9 supported by travel packages and other travel or tourism
10 incentives; and

11 6. a logo and trademark design for official use on all
12 Centennial commissioned related merchandise, apparel and
13 products officially licensed; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Commission shall meet as frequently as
15 necessary, at the call of the co-chairpersons; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, The Commission shall have the option of creating
18 a Council of Advisors and any working groups or committees it
19 deems necessary; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, The Commission shall have the option to
21 collaborate with any Federal or local commissions designated to
22 recognize the Great Migration Centennial commemoration via
23 internet links, shared exhibits, activities and programs; and



1 be it further

2 RESOLVED, The Commission shall work with and establish
3 opportunities with the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs
4 and the Mayor's Office of Special Events and Cultural Olympiad
5 2016; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Commission shall, while working in
7 coordination with and with the assistance of Black Metropolis
8 National Heritage Area Project Steering Committee, broaden
9 outreach by using established channels, including publicly
10 supported media and electronic, computer-assisted
11 communication systems, and elicit voluntary assistance from
12 educational, legal, civic, and professional organizations and
13 institutions, as well as, notable individuals; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That no later than December 31, 2010, the
16 Commission shall report to the General Assembly and the
17 Governor on its planning progress to commemorate and celebrate
18 the Great Migration Centennial; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 delivered to the Governor of the State of Illinois.

